

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

S E C R E T USNATO 4540

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR WORKING GROUP MEETING, SEPTEMBER 25

REF: STAE 190193

SUMMARY: MBFR WORKING GROUP (WG) CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF SHAPE ASSESSMENT OF OPTION III AND BELGIAN-UK-U.S. JULY 27 PAPERS, AND AGREED TO BEGIN DRAFTING WG REVIEWING PAPERS FOLLOWING NEXT MEETING. ON WARNING TIME PAPER, WG ASKED FOR REDRAFT INCORPORATING COMMENTS MADE DURING MEETING. WG DECIDED THAT STAFF GROUP PAPER ON PREPOSITIONED EQUIPMENT WOULD BE DEFERRED SINE DIE. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 4. END SUMMARY.

1. AT CHAIRMAN'S PROMPTING, DISCUSSION OF BOTH SHAPE
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ASSESSMENTS TURNED LARGELY ON APPROACH WORKING GROUP (WG) SHOULD ADOPT IN COMMENTING ON PAPER. STARTING WITH OPTION III PAPER, (SHAPE 1000.1/20-5-4/73) UK REP (LLOYD) MADE INSTRUCTED COMMENTS (SPEAKING NOTE POUCH) TO THE EFFECT THAT SHAPE PROPERLY

HAD NOT, AND WG SHOULD NOT NOW EXAMINE LARGER ASPECTS OF DETERRENCE. U.S. REP THEN SUGGESTED (SUPPORTED BY CANADIAN REP) THAT STAFF GROUP (SG) MIGHT NOW PREPARE FIRST DRAFT OF A WG REVIEWING PAPER, INCORPORATING RELEVANT NATIONAL COMMENTS. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, THIS APPROACH WAS REVISED TO INSURE THAT WG REVIEW WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO SHAPE'S ASSESSMENT, AND NOT ADDRESS OPTION III ITSELF. REVIEW WOULD ALSO IDENTIFY--WITHOUT COMMENT OR ELABORATION--THOSE ASPECTS OF THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM WHICH A REVIEW OF THE ASSESSMENT RAISED, BUT FOR WHICH THE WG NEITHER HAD A MANDATE NOR THE COMPETENCE TO EVALUATE. FRG REP (DZIALAS) OBJECTED, STATING THAT HE WOULD SHORTLY HAVE INSTRUCTED COMMENTS, THAT LARGER DETERRENCE PROBLEM STILL OF CONCERN TO BONN, AND THAT REQUESTING SG TO PREPARE A DRAFT AT THIS MEETING WAS PREMATURE. CONSENSUS THEN DEVELOPED THAT SG WOULD DEFER DRAFTING UNTIL NEXT MEETING, AND THAT IN MEANTIME IT WOULD PREPARE INFORMAL AIDE MEMOIRE LISTING ALL COMMENTS MADE THUS FAR. FOLLOWING BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SHAPE ASSESSMENT OF BELGIAN, UK AND U.S. JULY 27 PAPERS (SHAPE 1000.1/20-5-1/73), SG ALSO AGREED TO COMPILE COMMENTS, AND AIM FOR DRAFTING OF WG REVIEW AFTER NEXT SESSION.

2. WG THEN TURNED TO WARNING TIME PAPER (AC/276-WP(73)32), HELD LONG DEBATE DURING WHICH FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS SURFACED:

1) PAPER'S ESTIMATE IN GENERAL IS RATHER PESSIMISTIC AS TO ACHIEVING INCREASED WARNING TIME THROUGH REDUCTIONS

2) PAPER DOES NOT ADEQUATELY STRESS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POLITICAL AND MILITARY WARNING, AND SHOULD BE REPHRASED WHERE NECESSARY TO EMPHASIZE PAPER'S FOCUS ON "MILITARY WARNING AGAINST ATTACK"

3) PAPER IS UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER WARNING TIME FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF AGGRESSION (PARA 4) INVOLVE NUCLEAR OR ONLY CONVENTIONAL FORCES, AND WHETHER THERE IS A DIFFERENCE. SG AGREED TO REDRAFT PAPER FOR NEXT MEETING, TAKING WG COMMENTS INTO ACCOUNT.

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3. WG THEN CONSIDERED SG NOTE ON PREPOSITIONED EQUIPMENT (AC 276-WP(73)30). UK REP THOUGHT PAPER LACKED FOCUS ON WHAT SHOULD BE PURELY MILITARY ASPECTS OF PREPOSITIONING, NOTED THAT SUBJECT RAISES VARIETY OF BROADER POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES, AND WONDERED HOW WG SHOULD ACT ON PAPER. CONSENSUS FINALLY REACHED THAT IN VIEW OF HEAVY WORK LOAD AND HIGHER PRIORITY ITEMS, SG WOULD EXPLORE SUBJECT SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE. PAPER IS THEREFORE EFFECTIVELY SHELVED.

4. UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS, CHAIRMAN REPORTED ON STATUS OF SG WORK ON DATA. UK REP NOTED THAT OF THE 3000 TANKS INTRODUCED INTO SOVIET INVENTORY, IN EAST GERMANY SOME 1500 ARE NOT ASSIGNED TO UNIT HOLDINGS. SG AGREED TO SEEK CLARIFICATION.

DURING FORTHCOMING AD HOC INTELLIGENCE WORKING GROUP FOR UPDATING
WARSAW PACT TO&ES.

5. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING, OCTOBER 4 IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. SHAPE ASSESSMENTS OF OPTION III AND BELGIAN-UK-U.S.
PAPERS

2. REVISED PAPER ON WARNING TIME

3. VERIFICATION, IF U.S. INPUT RECEIVED

4. UK NOTE ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS (AC/276-WP(73)33-POUCHED)

NO GUIDANCE REQUIRED FOR ITEMS 1 AND 2. ASSUME GUIDANCE WILL
ACCOMPANY U.S. CONTRIBUTION FOR ITEM 3, WHEN SUBMITTED. ON ITEM
4, WG WILL BE ASKED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON PRIMARILY FRG (60 DAYS)
AND UK (90 DAYS) DEBATE CONCERNING PERIOD FORCES REINTRODUCED INTO
CONSTRAINTS AREA MAY BE PERMITTED TO REMAIN THERE. UNLESS
WASHINGTON PERCEIVES OBJECTION, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO JOIN
CONSENSUS ON ANY FIGURE BETWEEN 60 AND 90 DAYS.

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THE HAGUE
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USNMR SHAPE

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